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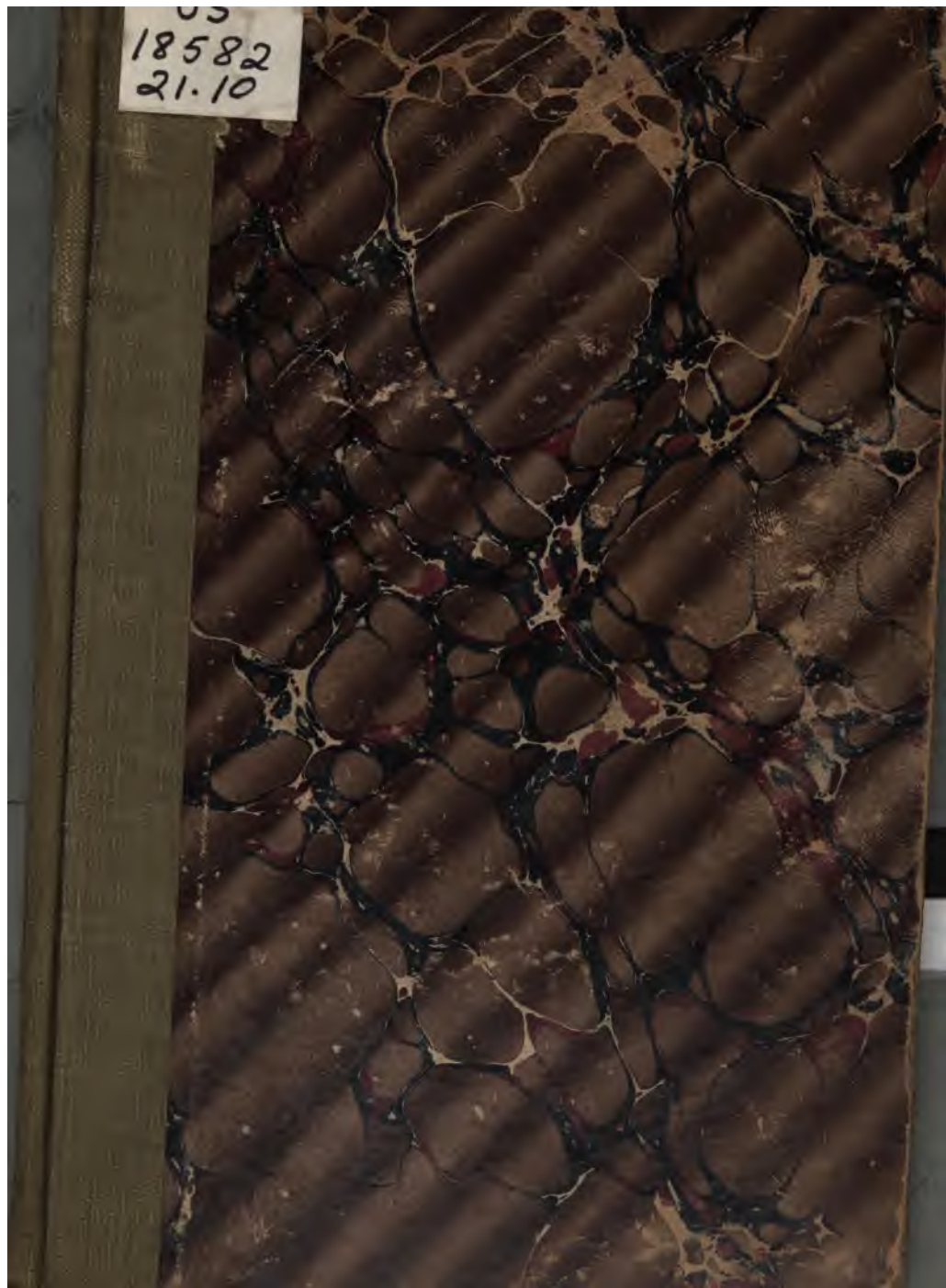
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# Historical Sketches

OF

## Virginia Hot Springs Warm Sulphur Springs and Bath County Virginia

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BY

**J. T. McALLISTER**  
**OF HOT SPRINGS, VA.**

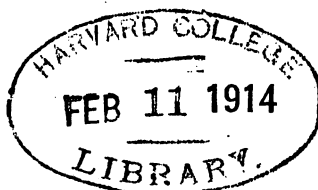
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## The Virginia Hot Springs.

The statement that this place is one of the oldest resorts in this country seems to strike the minds of some people with surprise, when they learn at the same time that it was not until the year 1892 that a railroad was constructed into this section. And yet the fact remains. As early as 1720 explorers had pushed their way up the waters of the James River and following its branches had spied out this land. That they thought it a goodly land is borne out by an application made at that time to the authorities at Williamsburg to allow them to take it up and settle a family on each one thousand acres.

Before the land now occupied by the stately city of Richmond had been laid off into "town lots" (1737) for Col. Wm. Byrd, the hardy Scotch-Irish, had pushed past the already settled sections east of the Blue Ridge and begun to conquer the land. In 1745 the regular surveys were made, showing who was in possession of the different tracts, and the list embraces the names of men who swept the Indians back year after year, crushing them and Lord Dunmore's infamous plans in the battle of Point Pleasant in 1774, really the first battle of the Revolution. Here, too, was the nursery of the folk who, following the eastern base of the Alleghanies, populated what is now the state of Tennessee, but first known as the state of Franklin; or crossing over the Alleghanies settled in the rich valley of the Kanawha or became the pioneer settlers of Kentucky.



To protect these people from the inroads of the savages, at the first, the state of Virginia built and garrisoned a number of forts along the two rivers, the Cowpasture and the Jackson, which encompass the valley.

One of these forts was only five miles distant from Warm Springs, on Jackson River. This was built some time prior to 1755, in which year George Washington travelled along the Alleghany mountains and inspected this fort. One of the officers who had command at one time of this fort was Lieutenant Thos. Bullitt. It was he who first seems to have appreciated the value of the Hot Springs waters. In connection with Andrew Lewis, (1) (that famous Indian fighter whose name stands out so prominently in the annals of border warfare, and whom Washington thought should have been made commander-in-chief of the American

(1) General Andrew Lewis, the Commander of the white forces in the battle and one of the owners of the Hot Springs, was one of the distinguished sons of John Lewis, whose wife was Margaret Lynn, daughter of the Laird of Loch Lynn, and who was the leader of the pioneer settlements in the Valley of Virginia.

Andrew Lewis's splendid services in the border warfare (for which his bronze statue stands beneath that of Washington in the Capitol Square at Richmond), embraced the Braddock campaign in 1755, the Forbes campaign in 1758, and culminated in the famous battle of Point Pleasant. So distinguished a writer as President Roosevelt ranks this battle as the first in the Revolutionary war, and says that but for the success of that battle the American colonies at the close of the Revolution would have found their territory confined to the narrow strip between the Atlantic and the Alleghanies.

Many of the troops in that battle came from this immediate section and were led by Col. Charles Lewis, of the Cowpasture river, a brother of Andrew Lewis.

forces,) and his brother, Thos. Lewis (2), he obtained a patent for the original Hot Springs tract of 300 acres, an agreement being entered into that they would build a hotel for the accommodation of the visitors to this place, and properly stock it with wines, etc. For some reason the Lewises decided not to do this and about the year 1766 the property was divided and Bullitt erected a hotel on the site of the Old Homestead. This building was the first one and parts of it remained until the fire of July 2nd, 1901, and was then destroyed.

1766! That was ten years before the Declaration of Independence.

Four years later Pittsburg contained only 20 houses and had perhaps 120 inhabitants. Augusta county then extended from the Blue Ridge to the Ohio river, and even some years later its county court was held in Pittsburg. It was nearly ten years later before the first cabin was built within the limits of Kentucky (1773). The tide of Indian warfare still swept to the crest of the Alleghany mountains, a few miles to the west, and very few settlers had dared make their homes beyond

(2) Thomas Lewis, brother of General Andrew Lewis, was for many years the surveyor of Augusta county. He was short-sighted and therefore did not figure so conspicuously as his brother as an Indian warrior. He was a man of much learning and ability; a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, and a member of the Virginia Convention of 1776. His library was one of the most extensive in the colony.

One of his sons, Captain John Lewis, who lived at the Warm Springs in this valley, raised a company of soldiers in this valley and the vicinity and marched from Warm Springs to and took part in the battle of Point Pleasant (10th of October, 1774), where he was dangerously wounded. This son was subsequently an officer in the regular army of the Revolution and after it remained with his family at the Warm Springs (then owned by him) until his death in 1788.

it. Raiding parties of Indians had recently carried away captives from both Jackson and Cowpasture valleys and some of them were yet in captivity.

George Washington was a few years later to state in his advertisement of lands held by him along the Kanawha that the seat of government would probably be located on the Ohio.

The journal of Dr. Thomas Walker, who was one of the the first men to make a trip into what is now Kentucky, throws some interesting sidelights on the Hot Springs. Dr. Walker left home March 6th and returned July 13th, 1750. Two of his entries are, "July 8, having shaved, shifted and made new shoes we left our useless rags at ye camp and got to Walker Johnston's about noon. We moved over to Robt. Armstrong's (3) in the afternoon and staid there all night. The people here are very hospitable and would be better able to support travellers was it not for the great number of Indian warriors that frequently take what they want from them, much to their prejudice."

"July 9th, we went to the Hot Springs and found six invalids there. The spring water is very clear and warmer than new milk, and there is a spring of cold water within twenty feet of the warm one."

Here, on the firing line, was built this hotel by the man who had distinguished himself in checking the enemy and saving many of the fugitives at Grant's defeat (1758) and who shared in General Forbes' successful expedition and capture of Fort DuQuesne; the man

(3) Robt. Armstrong then lived on Jackson river, just in the edge of what is now Alleghany county.

whose splendid services in the Indian wars led to his appointment in September, 1775, as Adjutant-General of the Virginia forces, and in the following March to his appointment by Congress as Deputy Adjutant-General of the Southern Department of the Continental Army. (4)

Nor was the place one merely for invalids if we can read between the lines and see why it was that Bullitt in 1773 directed that certain horses of noted racing stock be sold at these "Springs" in summer. This was in a conveyance made to provide for his debts in case he was killed by the Indians while in Kentucky.

Bullitt was also the owner of valuable lands in the Kanawha valley. His heirs were granted a good deal of land warrant by Virginia, on account of his military services.

It seems that Bullitt had been commissioned by the College of William and Mary to survey lands in Kentucky and gave his bond for that purpose in Botetourt county (which then embraced Hot Springs) in 1773, and in that year went down the Kanawha and Ohio on this mission.

Thos. Bullitt was originally from Fauquier county, Virginia. He was a brother of Cuthbert Bullitt, who was a distinguished Judge and President of the Court of Appeals of Virginia, and whose son, Cuthbert Bullitt,

(4) In addition to the lands owned by Bullitt and Lewis in this Valley (and they owned a great deal here), they were interested jointly, in connection with John Fry, Adam Stephen, Peter Hogg, John Savage, ——— Wright and John David Wilfer in a large tract of land called the "Ponotatem Tract." In General Andrew Lewis's will in which he devises the 2,100 acre part of it belonging to him, to his grandsons, Samuel and Charles, sons of Captain John Lewis.

Jr., was a Judge in Maryland and another son, Alexander Scott Bullitt, was a member of the Legislature, President of the Senate, President of the State Convention and Lieutenant-Governor of Kentucky.

Thos. Bullitt returned safely from his trip to the West and on the 22d of February, 1777, was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel and Deputy Adjutant-General in the Revolutionary army and died while in service in 1778. By his will he left his property, including this Hot Springs property, to his brother, Judge Cuthbert Bullitt.

In 1791 Cuthbert Bullitt, who was at the time a resident of Prince William county, died. By his will he disposed of a large landed estate, some of which was in Kentucky. He, or his executors, conveyed the Hot Springs to Nathaniel Wilkinson, of Henrico county, who very soon associated with him in the ownership John Oliver, John Carter Littlepage, Miles King and Benjamin Thomson.

In 1793 the Virginia Legislature granted a charter to some of these owners granting them the right to lay out the town of Hot Baths, at this place and to dispose of the lots by a lottery. There were a few lots thus disposed of, which were bought in by the subsequent owners of the property, and the effort in trying to have a "boom town" here a century ago collapsed as badly as did some of the more recent efforts along that line. This form of speculation seems not to have been confined to this locality. That the town building fever was about as general then as it was one hundred years later, the acts of the Legislature and the records of the different clerks offices will show.

In the meantime Thos. Lewis and General Andrew Lewis had died and their part of this land had passed, as to Thos. Lewis to his sons, and as to General Andrew Lewis, by will to his daughter Anne, who married Rowland Madison. These parties conveyed their interests to Charles Cameron.

For the interest of Rowland Madison and his wife, Charles Cameron sold them some land in Kentucky which was granted him for services in the Revolutionary War and Rowland Madison and his wife removed to it. (5)

From that time down to the time when this property was acquired by Dr. Thos. Goode in 1832 it was owned by different parties, none of whom added anything

(5) Charles Cameron was the first clerk of the Courts of Bath county from its formation in 1791, and for a number of years kept the records at his home at the Stonehouse near the fording of Jackson river below Warm Springs, now known as "Fassefers Farm."

He was in the battle of Point Pleasant, where three of his brothers were killed. On the 3d of December, 1776, he was appointed Lieutenant in the 10th Virginia Regiment and took part with his Regiment in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. In 1781 he was Captain of a militia company from this section and served in lower Virginia. In the same year he led a Volunteer company of cavalry from here to the lower part of the State and took part in the battle of Jamestown, during which battle he acted as Adjutant of the Regiment, which was under Col. Sampson Matthews, also from this section. In 1782 he was made Commissioner for a large section of the State, to secure supplies and recruits for the army. For his Revolutionary services, the State of Virginia granted him at one time 2,666 2-3 acres of land warrant. Some time prior to 1791 he obtained a tract of 1,400 on Dick's Creek, in Lincoln county, in the District of Kentucky, the place being called Dorchester's Improvement. Of this he sold 1,000 acres to Rowland Madison in 1791. It is frequently stated in the local histories that he was a Colonel in the Revolutionary war. This is a mistake. The title was a *post-bellum* title, given him because he was Colonel of the Bath Militia, after the formation of the county. He died in Bath county on the 14th of July, 1829.

either in buildings or perhaps in reputation to the property. John Oliver had died in 1799 and the title passed by conveyance from his heirs to Robt. Douthat, later to Ben Thomson, then to Aaron Kee, then to Wm. Madison Peyton (6) and thence to Dr. Thos. Goode.

### DR. THOS. GOODE.

From 1832 until his death in 1858 Dr. Goode lived here, and during that time the waters of this place attained a reputation which they have since held. In Burke's works on "The Virginia Springs," published in 1851, he describes the accommodations here in the following language:

"The accommodations for guests consist of a frame building some 200 feet long, and two stories high. In this there is a neat parlor, dining room, bar-room, and numerous chambers. It has a portico running the whole length, which affords a pleasant promenade and place for lounging. Along the road are several cabins, some of wood and others of brick; and in the bottom of the valley, near the baths, are also several cabins of the same character. They are all very comfortable, the greatest draw-

(6) Colonel Wm. Madison Peyton was a son of John H. Peyton and Susan Strother Peyton, (nee Madison, a relative of Bishop Madison.) His wife rejoiced in a signature which appears on the record abbreviated to Sally A. E. T. T. Peyton. She was a Miss Taylor, daughter of Judge Allen Taylor, and grand-daughter of the Benjamin Thomson mentioned in the text. Wm. M. Peyton died in Roanoke county in 1868, and is said to have been a man of ability and learning, a ripe scholar, possessing all the essential qualities of a great writer. He served at different times in the General Assembly and in other public positions. He left quite a large family, among whom were Mrs. Walter Preston, of Abingdon, Captain Wm. M. Peyton, of Kanawha, Mrs. T. C. Reed, of Roanoke county, and Mrs. Lewellyn, of Albemarle county.

back being their distance from the dining room. All the buildings here will accommodate about 120 persons with tolerable comfort, and I believe 140 have been taken in.

"The baths—six in number—are in line extending from east to west about three hundred yards, on the edge of a flat separated by a stream of water from the still lower marshy grounds in the rear.

"The hot pool, or boiler, as it is usually termed, is the most easterly in the range. It is covered by a large and badly contrived frame house, having a partition running longitudinally through it, which extends through the pool and forms separate baths and sweat rooms for ladies and gentlemen. Next to this is a small cabin containing a foot-bath—*pro bono publico*—then the Ladies' Hot Spout Bath, into which runs a large *douche* through a bored log, with a fall of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Attached to this is a sort of an ante-room and two or three dressing rooms. Next comes the Gentlemen's Hot Spout Bath, in every respect similar to the Ladies' Bath. Passing by a range of cabins you next reach a hexagon or octagon building containing a very fine pool, which, however, is now kept closed, and the water conveyed by pipe into a lower building, into which it flows by two beautiful spouts."

However crude such accommodations may seem to the persons who frequent the Hot Springs, it is nevertheless evident from the high endorsement of Dr. Burke in his work, as well as of the numerous guests at that time from all parts of the East, that the virtues of the waters, and not the attractive hotel accommodations drew people here from great distances. For it must be remembered that in those days, and until within the past ten years the traveler to these springs must per-



force make the journey over the mountains in stages. Even as late as 1891 the nearest railroad station was 20 miles distant.

The first of the pools above described, "The Hot Pool," stood until within the past few years, when it was torn down. It had been used in recent years as a swimming pool. The hexagon building covered the site of the pool just east of present bath house. Even when this description was written the bath house accommodations were superior to those first in use, which an early Virginia historian describes as consisting of a place "only surrounded by brush and open at the top." Several of these buildings, including some of the cottages, were built by Dr. Goode.(7)

The contrast was probably as great as it is now,

(7) DR. THOS. GOODE.—The Goode family is one well known in the State of Virginia, and fully written up in that comprehensive book, "Virginia Cousins." Dr. Goode's wife was a Miss Mary A. Knox, of Fredericksburg. Dr. Goode was a man of note in his profession and it was mainly due to his influence and skill that the waters of Hot Springs were brought to so wide notice. One of his sons, the late Col. Thos. F. Goode, was well known in connection with the Buffalo Lithia Springs, of Mecklenburg county. He married a Miss Chambers, of Mecklenburg. Two of his sisters, Miss Sophia and Miss Isabella, lived with them. Miss Martha Goode, now deceased, a daughter of Dr. Goode, married Samuel Jones, of Montgomery, Ala. Miss Lucy Goode, now deceased, another daughter, married Col. George Brent, of Alexandria. Miss Alice Goode, another daughter, married Dr. Wm. Crump, of Richmond, a surgeon who was in charge of the Confederate Hospital here during the war. She is now a widow living in Richmond, Va. Miss Margaret Goode, another daughter, now deceased, married Mr. ——— Garland, of Lynchburg. Miss Ellen Goode, another daughter, married Mr. ——— Friend, from Port Royal, Virginia. Samuel Goode, a son, lived in Augusta county. Two other daughters, Misses Sallie and Ann, died here and are buried with their father in the grave yard next to the Presbyterian church.

when the visitor finds a modern bathing establishment costing \$150,000, and combining all the best points of the European bathing houses, with attendants drawn from Europe.

The two-story building 200 feet long, which was incorporated into the Old Homestead and destroyed with it, was supplemented by a large brick building which stood on the brow of the hill, just above the present bath house, and which was torn down when the extension to the Homestead was built.

#### YE ANCIENT METHOD OF TRAVEL.

An interesting glimpse of "ye ancient methods of travel" is presented in a collection of letters descriptive of The Virginia Springs, published in New York in 1844, but written in 1837 by a writer styling himself "Peregrine Prolix." This little collection was recently presented to Mr. Decatur Axtell, President of the Virginia Hot Springs Company, by Mr. George Edward Sears, of Toronto, Canada.

In describing the "improved" transportation facilities for reaching this place at that time he states that there are two ways, one from Washington via Fredericksburg and the other by way of Richmond.

In coming by way of Washington, he left Philadelphia at six o'clock a. m., and arrived at Baltimore at 3:30 p. m., and taking the coach, *at once*, was enabled to reach Washington by 9:30 p. m. That was in 1834. In a note added in 1837 he says that then the railroad from Baltimore to Washington carried you between these points in two and a half hours(!). Then leaving

Washington at 6 next morning, you take the boat and by 1 o'clock (with good luck) you reach Fredericksburg, which you leave at 3 p. m., and arrive at Orange C. H. at 9 p. m.

Two hours before sunrise you are again on the road, and ride three hours for breakfast. At 11 a. m. you reach Charlottesville, which you leave at noon, and arrive in Staunton by early candle light.

At 4 next morning (think of it) you are repacked in the coach (with nine inside) and drive fourteen miles in three hours and get breakfast at Fraziers; then travel nineteen more miles to Cloverdale, where you obtain dinner, and leaving it at 2 p. m., come via Warm Springs to the Hot, which you reach at 8 p. m.

The other way was to leave Philadelphia by steamboat at 6 a. m., meet the Norfolk boat in the Patapsco about 2 p. m., transfer to it and reach Old Point about 6 a. m., where you transfer to another boat, which would land you in Richmond by night. From Richmond you could go one of two ways, either to Charlottesville, thence via Staunton, or else by Lynchburg, Lexington, etc. If some fate decided you to take the latter route you left Richmond at 2 a. m. (!) and passing through Hopkinsville (20 miles) then to Cumberland C. H., (37 more miles) you reached Raines (13 miles further on), where you spent the night. Leaving Raines at the delightful hour of two the following morning you made 12 miles to New Store, then 17 more to Patterson's, where after your 29 miles you have breakfast. Ten miles further on you pass Chiltons, and at the end of 17 more Lynchburg looms in sight, and it is then 1

p. m. If you are then not ready for more exercise that day, you remain with the writer until 5 o'clock next morning, when you start for Lexington 40 miles distant. In three and a half hours you have managed to make ten miles and get your breakfast with Mr. Davis. Twelve miles further on you cross the James River in a scow, and begin to ascend the Blue Ridge and at its western foot you find that the turnpike is not finished and will not be until 1838. After an exceedingly rough journey you reach Lexington at 7 p. m., and are only too willing to put up at the Jefferson hotel.

Here the writer has decided to abandon the stage coach, and hires a team for the price of \$21.00 to take him on. He leaves at 7 a. m. and hopes to reach Covington by night. In this, however, he is disappointed and has to take chances for the night at Tackett's Tavern, which is five miles short of his destination, and where the beds are such that he records, for the instruction of travelers, that "beds have two sides, an inside and an outside, and the latter should be used when the former is not inviting."

But we will leave him here.

What a contrast is this with the conveniences now offered. At best then, this place could be reached from Philadelphia in four days. And yet it was estimated that in the summer of 1838 six thousand people visited the Virginia Springs, which lie within a radius of forty miles of this place. The travelers of that day calmly (I might say heroically) accepted the situation and enjoyed it. While one writer in a wild spirit of prophecy in 1838 predicts that "in less than forty months from

the present time, it may be predicted a railroad will sweep by, within a short distance from the Warm Springs Mountain, and the inhabitants of the Union will find it but three days travel to New York," he compares the condition then with previous ones by concluding, "which less than twenty years since was the journey of a month."

No wonder that the seriously sick could not make such a formidable journey. Now the traveler from New York leaves there at five o'clock in the evening, Philadelphia at half past seven, Baltimore at ten and Washington at eleven and reaches this place, without change for breakfast, traveling in elegantly appointed compartment cars. And if the train happens to be half an hour late, an explanation must be forthcoming.

### DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

During the Civil War the buildings here were for a time used as a Confederate hospital. The 11th Tennessee Regiment, which had been with Lee in his West Virginia campaign, was stationed here, and the 7th Tennessee at the Healing (8). During the summer following that campaign General Lee was here once or

(8) No battles of the Civil War were fought in this immediate locality. The McDowell battlefield is some miles north of this point and Cheat Mountain is about the same distance to the west. Both the Confederate and Federal troops, however, passed through here on raiding expeditions. Twice the Confederates passed through, once under General Thos. L. Rosser and again under General Jones.

Of the Federal forces those of Averill and Crook were most fond of passing through this section. When Lee's army passed out to West Virginia in the early part of the war it went through Warm Springs, thence to Huntersville.

twice with his wife, and occupied one of the cottages, which recently stood in front of the new Homestead.

### THE PRESENT OWNERS.

In 1865 the property passed into the hands of Ellett and Drewry, A. H. Drewry and Thos. R. Price & Company (all Richmond men), and later on into the possession of Tardy & Williams. In 1890 it was acquired by Col. James A. August and W. S. Edmunds, who in that year transferred it to the Southern Improvement Company, which was merged into the Virginia Hot Springs Company.

Mr. M. E. Ingalls, at that time the President of the Chesapeake and Ohio R. R. and the President of the Big Four, became largely interested in it, and committed its development to the untiring care of Mr. Decatur Axtell, vice-president of the C. & O. Both of these gentlemen have given largely of their personal time and attention to developing its possibilities and they have seen it grow under their hands into one of the most noted resorts in the world.

They found it without railroad communications. A branch was constructed from Covington over which during the busiest season several trains pass each day carrying Pullmans, connecting with all through trains. They found it only a summer resort. It has now become a most popular all-the-year-round resort. Its poor bathing facilities have given place to an establishment which compares favorably with any in the world, and which is the result of a study of the best establishments of the kind in Europe. Its wooded hill-sides have been

cleared away to give place to private cottages, some of which are not to be excelled. The hotel building, found here at that time, was soon added to and improved, but still was second to the Virginia, which was built in 1892, and it in turn took second place to the Homestead, which was gradually extended along the crest of the hill, until it reached the bath house at its foot. Comfortable cottages were constructed along the macadamized roadways and the asphalted pavements through the property, offering the privacy of a home, with the facilities of a fashionable hotel. New and improved driveways were built connecting it with the Warm Springs, five miles distant, and part of this and the road to the Healing Springs, (also owned by this company) was macadamized, some of the work being done by the United States Government. Bridle paths have been cut along the mountain tops and sides, making it possible to ride along the crests of the mountain from one end of the main valley to the other.

Golf links extending for more than three miles and equaling any in this country, now cover ground which was then thick set with trees.

In addition to making these improvements within the bounds of their own property and caring carefully for the 15 miles of toll roads, owned by it, this company for the past several years has added a like sum to the amount appropriated by the county officials for work on thirty-five miles of county road in this section, which has enabled the commissioners of roads to greatly improve them.

During the years that the company has owned this

property it has advanced its reputation and popularity in every way, and its patrons are drawn from all parts of the Union, in increasingly large number. This included people of the highest distinction in social and political life. The late President McKinley was twice a visitor here during his term of office. It has become one of the noted points for gathering of conventions in the East.

The class of patronage which has made some other resorts of the same kind objectionable, has been persistently refused and rejected at this place, thus offering a safety to its patrons from contagious diseases. All offers of fabulous prices for locations for gambling houses have been as promptly rejected as they have been presented.

In the village which has grown up around the place have sprung up three churches, one erected by the Catholics, one by the Presbyterians and another by the Episcopalians, in which services are regularly held.

### THE OLD HOMESTEAD FIRE.

On July 2nd, 1901, when only about one hundred guests were in the house, came the cry of fire, and amidst the utmost confusion on the part of the guests, but with perfectly perfected plans on the part of the officials of the hotel, the people in the building were gotten out, and practically all of the valuable baggage belonging to them (except that in the immediate section first aflame), was rescued. The origin of the fire has never been discovered. But in a few hours, this immense structure was all afire and a mass of ruins.



Scarcely had the debris cooled before the work of reconstruction was decided upon, plans contemplating a practically fire proof hotel were adopted and with a determined and persistent effort these have been accomplished, resulting in a hostelry on the old site, with every known protection against fire; with metal laths, asbestos papering between the rooms and floors, fire doors ready on the instant to complete the fire walls which run here and there through the building, so cutting off each section that should any fire originate in any part, it can be shut off from the other parts. Fire escapes of the most approved patterns project from the sides here and there, offering a ready escape in case of emergency.

The main part of the New Homestead was opened for guests March 10, 1902. The extension along the crest of the hill was opened in the fall of 1902.

## The Warm Springs.

Of the many tales which were related by the old inhabitants of this part of the county, of the discovery and use made by the Indians of the Warm Springs waters, the most beautiful legend is that given by Mr. Otis, of Boston, as derived from the old bath-keeper, and published by him in the Southern Literary Messenger, of March, 1838.

“A young Indian more than two centuries ago, was coming from the western valley of the great Appalachian mountain, toward the waters of the east that opened into a beautiful bay, whose branches touched the strands of some of the mighty marts of a nation which was then not in existence. He had never trodden that path before, and nothing but pride of youth that would not brook that his brethren or other tribes should triumph over him as their inferior in adventure, had sustained his manly heart so far; for he had come since the rising sun first touched that day the mighty peaks of the Alleghanies, from the vale that lay at their feet on the west. He was going to carry the voice and vote of a powerful nation to the council-fire that was kindling on the banks of the great-water, and he felt shame at the recurrence of the idea that the place of the young Appalachian Leopard could be vacant. But the night winds beat coldly around him and the way was dark. There had been rains and the earth was damp and swampy; and no grass or fern, or heather was at hand, with which to make a bed in the valley where he stood. He had not the strength to climb the nearer range of moun-

tains that drew up their summits before him, as if to shut out the hopes that he could accomplish his ardent desire. Weary, dispirited and ready to despair, he came suddenly upon an open space among the low underwood that covered the valley where he was wandering, and upon looking narrowly, he observed that it was filled with water. He could see the clear reflection of the bright evening star that was just reclining to her rest, and that was peeping into the fountain, 'Like a bride full of blushes, just lingering to take a last look in her mirror at night, e'er she goes.'

"By this translucent reflection he could perceive that the water was clear, and its depth he could discern by the pebbles that glistened in the starlight from the bottom. He saw, too, that the water was continually flowing off and supplying a stream that ran rippling away among the roots of the oaks that surrounded the spot, and, as he stooped to taste the liquid element, he found it warm, as if inviting him to relax his chilled limbs by bathing in its tepid bosom. He laid aside his bow and quiver, unstrung his pouch from his brawny shoulders, took off his moccasins and plunged in. A new life invigorated his weary spirit; new strength seemed given to his almost rigid nerves; he swam; he dived; he lay prostrate upon the waves in a sort of dreaming ecstasy of delight; and, when the first dawn of day broke from the rock-crowned hill, at the foot of which the 'Spring of Strength' lay enshrined, the 'Young Leopard' came forth from his watery couch and strode proudly up the mountain, where path there was none. He was a young giant, rejoicing to run his course. Full of new fire and vigor he manfully sped on his way and upon the eve of the day, when the chiefs and sons of chiefs were seated

around the council-fire, no one of them was more graceful in address, more commanding in manner, more pleasing in look and sagacious in policy than the 'Young Appalachian Leopard' who bathed in the 'Spring of Strength.' "

Of the discovery of these springs by the white man, tradition has asserted that this was made by General Andrew Lewis, when, in making his escape from the Indians who were closely pursuing him, he hid successfully among the bushes in the water of this spring. Just how early this discovery was made is not known. As early as 1727, Robert Lewis, William Lynn, Robert Brooke, Jr., James Mills and Willian Lewis, petitioned the Governor and Council, stating that they had been at great trouble in charges in making discoveries of lands among the mountains, and being desirous of taking up some of the land they had discovered, prayed for an order granting them the privilege to take up fifty thousand acres, in one or more tracts, on the head branches of the James River to the west and northwest of the Cowpasture, on seating thereon one family for every thousand acres (See Vol. I. of Palmer's Calendar of Va. State Papers). Whether or not any grant was made to said petitioners of 1727 is not known. The original entry for the Warm Springs property was made prior to the organization of Augusta County (1745), and while this section was a part of Orange County.

On the 29th of October, 1743, the Council granted leave to John Robinson, James Wood, Henry Robinson, Thomas Lewis, and Andrew Lewis, to take up

thirty thousand acres of land; the greater part if not the whole of this order was taken up along the Cowpasture and Jackson Rivers valleys, and the surveys which were made in 1745-6, speak of the different parts as being "in possession". The original Warm Springs Tract consisted of one hundred and forty acres, which was surveyed in the name of John Lewis, (son of Andrew Lewis, or, Thomas Lewis) and John Lewis, Jr., on the 10th day of March, 1751, by Andrew Lewis, assistant surveyor to Thomas Lewis, the Surveyor of Augusta County.

Andrew Lewis and Thomas Lewis were the sons of John Lewis, the pioneer. It was not an unusual thing for an entry or a claim to the land to be made fifteen or twenty years before the actual survey. Numerous tracts were added to this original one hundred and forty acres, until the Lewises were the owners of practically the whole of the present Warm Springs property.

The Warm Springs is known to have been resorted to by people at a distance, as early as 1755. Rev. Hugh McFadden, a young Presbyterian minister, went from Pennsylvania to North Carolina on horseback in 1755. He kept a diary of his trip, which is to be found in Foote's Sketches of North Carolina. On the 16th day of July, 1755, he tells of hearing the news of Braddock's defeat, which had occurred on the 9th of July. He says: "Here it was I received the most melancholy news of the entire defeat of our army by the French, at Ohio, and the general killed, perhaps the inferior officers, and the whole artillery taken." This together with the frequent accounts of the various murders be-

ing daily committed upon the frontiers, struck terror into every heart; a cold shuddering possessed every breast and paleness covered every face. In short, the whole inhabitants were put into an universal confusion. Scarcely any man dur'st sleep in his own house, but all in companies with their wives and children set about building little fortifications to defend them from such barbarians and inhuman enemies, whom they concluded would be let loose upon them.

On the 16th he proceeded on his journey with a young man from Charlotte County, who had been at the Warm Springs, and was flying from the unexpected inroad of the savages.

Thackeray, in his novel called "The Virginians," gives a graphic account of the consternation which the news of Braddock's defeat caused throughout the State. In the universal consternation, many of the settlers of the western frontiers fled across the Blue Ridge. (See Geo. Washington's Letter to Gov. Dinwiddie). The Rev. Alexander Craighead with a portion of his congregation left the Cowpasture River and went into North Carolina.

Whether or not Geo. Washington visited the Warm Springs in the fall of 1755, is not known, but he was within five miles of the place at that time, as he made a tour of inspection of the Forts along the Alleghany Mountains, going on horseback from Fort Cumberland to Fort Dinwiddie, which was located on Jackson's River on the property now owned by William M. McAllister, and about a half of a mile north of the bridge at Fassefern.

In May, 1774, Captain John Lewis enrolled a company at Warm Springs, which was placed under Col. Chas. Lewis and marched to Point Pleasant. It was there on the 10th of October that the Virginians were suddenly attacked by a large body of Indians, led by Cornstalk and Logan. The battle was waged from sunrise to sunset, and was the most noted battle ever fought between white men and Indians. It is believed by many to have been the turning point in events which made possible the success of the Revolutionary War. This John Lewis was the grand-son of John Lewis, the pioneer. About two years later he joined the Continental Army and is said to have been engaged in nearly all the battles in the Northern Colonies, and to have risen to the rank of Major, in which rank he served in the battle of Monmouth.

In September, 1776, Captain John Lewis's Company served against the Indians at Warwick's Fort, that being one of the names given to Fort Dinwiddie mentioned above.

In June, 1779, a company of fifteen or twenty soldiers were kept at the Warm Springs, under Lieut. Wackub, to guard the people from the Indians. The company remained for about two weeks, when the alarm subsided.

In the year 1780 a company was enlisted for the remainder of the Revolutionary War, at Warm Springs, by Captain William Long. This company was marched from the Warm Springs down near Portsmouth, where it was stationed for some time; thence to Jamestown, and was in the battle of "Hot Water" about sixteen miles above Williamsburg. From this point it was

driven by the British into the county of Albemarle, and to a place called Raccoon Ford (in Culpeper county). There the American army was joined by General Wayne, and the Warm Springs Company joined in the pursuit of the British down to Richmond and was at Little York, and in the battle at the time of Cornwallis' surrender.

It was during this unexpected visit of the British to Albemarle County, that on June 4, 1781, the Legislature of Virginia were driven from Charlottesville by the approach of Tarlton, a dashing commander of Dragoons, and met in Staunton on the 7th. On the following Sunday they met, and having heard a report that Tarlton was pursuing the American forces across the Blue Ridge, they adjourned their meeting to the Warm Springs. Some of the members fled toward Lexington and others toward the Warm Springs. Patrick Henry was one of the latter, and tradition states that such seemed to be the emergency that he left Staunton wearing only one boot. This alarm, however, proved to be false, and the Legislature returned the next day to Staunton.

After the Revolutionary war this place is said to have had as its guests many officers who took prominent parts in that war. The old register and account books, still on file at the Warm Springs hotel, contain many distinguished names. Thomas Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia* has several interesting notes in regard to the Warm Springs.

When Bath county was formed, in 1791, these springs were the property of the estate of John Lewis, grand-



son of John Lewis, the pioneer, and then occupied by Margaret Lewis, his widow, and her son, Andrew. As early as 1800 the springs had attracted many visitors. The flow of water from the springs is at the rate of 6,000 gallons a minute, and is sufficient to run the two grist mills situated within a mile of their source. Two large bath houses are built, the one on either side of the drinking spring. They are each large bathing pools, the ladies' bath being the larger of the two. The European spring to which the Warm Springs is most similar is that of Wilbad in Germany.

That their water will cure dyspepsia, chronic rheumatism and paralytic affections is not a matter of theory but the testimony of thousands who have been cured by it; and that it is most beneficial in the treatment of the whole class of cutaneous diseases is well proved.

#### NOTED FOR SOCIAL GATHERINGS.

But not as a health resort only has this place established its reputation. It first became famous under the management of Colonel Fry, of Albemarle. Afterwards it became the property of Colonel John Brockenborough, and from that day to this it has steadily increased as a resort noted for its social gatherings. The two nieces of Colonel John Brockenborough are painted in glowing colors by Burke, in his work on the Virginia Springs. Miss Ella Chapman was a daring horsewoman and accomplished the feat, never accomplished by any one except her mother, until then, of riding her horse upon the Flag Rock opposite the hotel and 1,200 feet above it. This Miss Chapman married De Portes-

tad, an attache of the Spanish legation, and became prominent in Europe as a beauty. She and her sister, Miss Emily, the other niece of Col. Brockenborough, and who afterwards became Princess Pigniotelli, were special friends of the Empress Eugenie.

### THE PRESENT OWNERS.

This place was afterwards the property of Col. John L. Eubank, who, it will be remembered, was the secretary of the convention of Virginia that passed the secession act, April 17th, 1861. He was widely known and was a great favorite both at home and abroad. Though it has passed through successive companies and is now the property of the Virginia Hot Springs Company, it is still under the management of his widow, Mrs. M. T. Eubank. Its popularity has but increased with each season, and its buildings will scarcely accommodate the crowd of guests who gather here early in the summer and remain until the cold drives them homeward. Its capacity is estimated at 400, but it often has to crowd many more into its rooms. Some of the guests who come here from year to year have been coming here since childhood and will doubtless continue as long as life lasts to frequent this place.

## Interesting Notes in the Records at Bath Court House.

When the county of Bath was formed in 1790, the county seat was established at Warm Springs, the present seat.

From the organization of the county down to 186—the county court was composed of prominent men, nominated as Justices of the Peace. They held their office for life, and met together to form the court. They were not men “versed in the law” and therefore were a law unto themselves. (Not differing in that respect from some of the Justices of the present day.) It is not remarkable therefore, that a certain amount of originality is apparent on the records of this court.

From May, 1791, to June, 1792, the court was held at the house of Margaret Lewis, at the Warm Springs. On the 9th of August, 1791, the court met, and its first order was as follows:

“At a court held for Bath county, at the house of Margaret Lewis, this 9th day of August, 1791. Present, John Dean, Jacob Warrick, John White and John Oliver, Gentlemen.

“Ordered that the court adjourn To Some *Trees down the Lane near the Highway.*

“(Signed) John Dean.”

The adjournment having been made, the next order read:

“At a court continued under the Trees, near the

Highway the 9th of August, 1791, agreeable to adjournment."

"Present Samuel Vance." Whereupon the court proceeded with the regular order of business.

The curious visitor can notice some stones placed around the old walnut tree "near the Highway" just opposite the Presbyterian church, which are doubtless pointed out as the stones on which the grand jury, which was empanelled, sat. As to the identity of the spot the writer cannot vouch.

As no well regulated county court at that day, thought itself fully equipped for business, until furnished with all the up-to-date methods of punishment, at the December court, 1791, it was "ordered, that John White and Charles Cameron, employ some persons to Build a Stocks and Pillory on the public lot near the jail." The court did not however, follow the example of the Augusta county court and provide a ducking stool where there was no water.

On the — day of —, 179—, George Kelley was tried for felony, and was sentenced to be "punished Emedately by thirty lashes on his Bear back."

On the 10th of March, 1795, a man named Moore, having been indicted for Marrying Two wives, now alive, "the court was advised that they have no authority to proceed on same," and the indictment was dismissed.

On May 12th, 1795, James Cunningham was indicted and tried for selling Cyder at the Bath court, and on the 10th of May, 1796, Wm. Crawford became the victim of three indictments, 1st, for retailing liquor

without license; 2nd, for encouraging a fight; and 3rd, for playing cards in his own house, contrary to law.

At another time, the court refused to allow a defendant to plead the statute of limitation.

On the 11th of March, 1880, a court was held for the examination of William Fuller, charged with felony—stealing sheaf oats of Valentine Cune, of said county. The court after hearing the evidence, entered the following:

“It’s the opinion of the court, that the defendant is not guilty of the felony aforesaid. But from the circumstances, the said Fuller *ought* to be Bound to his Good Behavior.”

On the 12th of May, 1801, the Grand Jury met and indicted three hundred and twenty-four persons, being fresholders of the county of Bath “for not voting at the last election for members of the General Assembly, and a member of Congress.”

The records of the county show conclusively that the voting place was at the Warm Springs, where some of the three hundred and twenty-four persons lived. A number lived between there and the Hot Springs. Yet at the July Term, 1801, they were all “excused because the waters were high.”

Attorneys at law, were always considered quasi-officers of a court, but so far as we know, the order of the county court on the 15th day of May, 1800, granting “leave of absence to John Moore, Gentleman, Attorney, until August Term next” is unique.

At the first court, it proceeded to fix the

“Rates of Liquor, Stabelage,

“Fodder and pasturage, to be paid at the several Ordinaries, in this county the insuing year.”

The only breach of these rates which was brought to the attention of the court, was in 1817, when the Grand Jury indicted John Fry, who then kept the tavern at the Warm Springs, and Hezekiah Daggs, who then reigned where our good friend, Fred Sterry, reigns to-day.

The following extracts from the records, will show the proceedings.

STATE OF VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF BATH, TO WIT:

At a County Court continued and held at the Court House of Bath County, on this the 11th day of March, 1817.

The court having under consideration the fixing of rates to be charged at the taverns and ordinaries in said county, it was ordered that the following rates be established:

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| For Breakfast,              | 25 cents.                      |
| For Dinner                  | 37 & $\frac{1}{2}$             |
| For Supper                  | 25 cents.                      |
| For Whiskey (common)        | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pt. |
| For Whiskey, Rectified,     | 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents.        |
| For French Brandy and Rum,  | 25 cts. per half pt.           |
| Grain, per gallon;          | 12 & $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.      |
| Stabelage & Hay, per night, | 25 cents.                      |
| Lodging, per night,         | 12 & $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.      |
| Madeira and Claret Wine     | 25 cts. per qt.                |

## STATE OF VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF BATH TO-WIT:

At a Superior Court of Law, holden for Bath County, at the Court House on the 1st day of September, 1817.

Present, the Honorable Archibald Stuart, one the Judges of the General Court.

William Wilson, foreman; John Baxter, Robert Kinkaid, John Bird, Elisha B. Williams, Lewis Payne, Peter Smith, Alexander McClintic, John Moore, Isaac Moore, Robert Gay, John Gilliland, Andrew Edmunson, Jacob Doll, John McCausland, Mathew Wallace, William Benson, David Kinkaid, Charles Ervin, John Graham and Robert Bratton, were sworn a grand jury of inquest for the commonwealth for the body of this county, who having received its charge retired to consider of their presentment, and returned into court, and presented an indictment against James Brinkley for Assault & Battery "A True Bill." An indictment against John Cochran, for Assault & Battery "A True Bill."

JOHN FRY the keeper of the tavern at the Warm Springs, in the County of Bath, the property of the WARM SPRINGS COMPANY for demanding and taking a greater price for Domestic Spirits, at said tavern in said county, within six months last passed, than the rates fixed for the same by the County Court of Bath, to-wit: for demanding and taking 25 cents for one half pint of whiskey instead of 12 & 1-2 cents as fixed by the said County Court. On the information of Isaac Frazier, witness summoned at the request of the Grand Jury.

HEZAKIAH DAGGS, AN ORDINARY KEEPER AT HOT SPRINGS, in the county of Bath, for violating the rates fixed by the County Court, to-wit: for demanding and taking at his said tavern in the said county, 50 CENTS FOR DINNER, instead of 34 CENTS, as FIXED BY SAID COUNTY COURT OF BATH. On the information of Thomas McClintic, a witness summoned at the request of the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury having nothing further to present were discharged.

At another court held April 17th, 1818,

Present the same Judge as yesterday (Archibald Stuart).

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| COMMONWEALTH, Pltff. }  | Upon Presentment. |
| against                 |                   |
| HEZAKIAH DAGGS, Deft. } |                   |

This day came as well the attorney prosecuting for the Commonwealth as the defendant by his attorney, and on hearing it was considered by the court that the said defendant do make his fine with the Commonwealth by the payment of Twelve Dollars, according to law, and that he pay the cost of this prosecution, and may be taken &c.

The following letter from Mr. Sterry, will show how relieved he is that eighty years have elapsed since these rates were established.

My reader, if you are a guest of the Hotels, don't try to seek comfort in this. The county court which established such things has long since departed; the laws regulating charges, have been wiped from the



statute books; and you are left to the tender mercies of our friends, the hotel proprietors. May you escape with your baggage.

Hot Springs, Virginia.

MY DEAR MR. McALLISTER:—Yours of the 9th inst., enclosing abstracts from the records for hotel charges, duly received, for which I thank you very much, as it is certainly interesting. I thank heavens I was not keeping a tavern at Hot Springs in those days, for I suppose I would have been sent up for life.

Yours very truly,

FRED STERRY.

## The Bath Alum Springs.

Nestled closely up to the eastern foot of the Warm Springs Mountains, along the road from Warm Springs to Millboro, lies the Bath Alum Springs. From time out of mind the visitor to the Warm Springs Valley passed it twice at least each year, for then the route of travel was first by stages from Richmond or Fredericksburg, or later (as the railroads pushed southward and westward) from Staunton, and then after some years from Millboro. Since the introduction of the railroad into this valley, with its branch line from Covington, there are few if any who come over the old route to reach these springs. And yet there are not wanting those who would fain insist that despite the comfort added by coming all the way by rail they would gladly come the old way, just to get a view of the mountains to the east, from the gap opposite the Warm, and catch again the first glimpse of the Warm Springs from along the winding road from this summit down. Be that as it may, it is well worth any trouble to go to this point and wind down the eastern slope, to the Bath Alum, and its attractive grounds, much of which is still in a state of nature. For many years this place was one of the noted watering places in the mountains. The water is beyond question well charged with qualities most useful in the treatment of disease, and the question of why it is not now open for visitors is easily answered. Some years ago it was purchased by an eccentric old

man who had no desire to open it for visitors and so he closed its doors, and so it remained for the balance of his life. It has within the past few years been acquired by Dr. H. S. Pole who has done much to improve its condition. Within the past few months it has passed into the hands of the Bath Alum Springs Company, which proposes to make it an attractive point for visitors to this valley to go for the day.

In "ye olden time," before the steam railway had been thought of, and while George Washington was still dreaming of his system of waterways which was to follow the James and Jackson River to Covington, then up Dunlap Creek, thence, a short portage across the Alleghany Mountain, thence down the Greenbrier to the Kanawha and Misissippi, one of the lines of travel from the Atlantic markets to the newly developed West was from Harrisonburg or Staunton to the Warm Springs, thence across the Alleghany Mountains to Lewisburg, and thence westward to the Ohio. These pushing pioneers had not stopped to organize any "good road convention"; they had been so long accustomed to push through the lower gaps of the mountains with only a slightly marked trail that they had scarcely any need for roads. Moreover, they were of a restless spirit and might well pause to consider before they expended much money in constructing a road to lead to a home which perhaps in a year or less they would exchange for one in a more distant and better section. Whatever the reason the fact remains that although the Warm Springs and the Hot Springs were well known resorts as early as the middle of the Eighteenth Cen-

ture, no wagon ever passed across the Warm Springs Mountain until many years later, and Bath Alum at that time, and for many years prior to it, was the terminus of any road which permitted the passage of vehicles. It was the point to which the traffic came from the East on vehicles and was there distributed into packages which were placed on pack-horses which were driven or lead over the narrow bridle paths, across the mountains to the West. Remains are still to be seen of the old stable at this point which accomodated the animals used in this service and the visitor on horse-back can still follow the rugged bridle path which follows the stream and comes out at the summit of the mountain opposite the Warm Springs.

Even when the time arrived for the constructing of a road-way across this mountain, it was built on the Russian principle of taking the shortest route between two points. The remains of this early road are visible on both sides of this mountain. It was a frequent thing for the wagoners when they reached the summit to provide themselves with a primitive sort of brake, by cutting down small trees and tying them to the end of their wagon until they reached the foot of the mountain. At some of the foot-hills where these roads crossed it is said that this custom resulted in quite an accumulation of such improvised brakes, in the shape of great brush heaps.

## Frontier Forts In Bath County During Colonial Times. (b)

Withers, in his *Border Warfare*, makes a statement which is copied by many writers on kindred topics, that when the settlement of the white man had reached the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge, all of that part of Virginia which lies between the Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains was deserted by Indians. Be that as it may, the country which held such battlefields as that near Millboro Springs and which had furnished such sites for villages as that near Mountain Grove, on Back Creek; that at the McClintic Place, on Jackson's river; and that at Covington, was not left to the white man without vigorous protest from the former owners. The visitor to the Flag Rock, just opposite the Warm Springs, still has his attention turned to the prominent peak some miles to the east, where, tradition says, a young Indian maiden watched the terrible battle between the two hostile tribes of Indians, in which her lover was engaged; and the flood of 1877 brought to light on the banks of Cowpasture river, below Millboro Springs, many evidences of that battle. The memory of living man goes back to the time when the trees from which the Indians stripped bark for their huts, near Mountain Grove, still stood. Relics of the Indian town are still turned up by the plow on the

(b) This is reprinted from *Virginia Magazine of History*, the official magazine of the Virginia Historical Society.

McClintic place; and Mr. Frank Lyman, the recent owner, has in his New York residence the many Indian relics excavated while digging the foundation for the Covington Iron Furnace. Vacated by the Indians, when the white man had reached the eastern base of the Blue Ridge, this country may have been; but visited by the savages it still was, and with a vengeance so swift and terrible that Governor Dinwiddie, in his home at Old Williamsburg, wrote his vigorous letters in vain to the County Lieutenants, threatening to retake the land in this section in the name of the Crown unless the settlers would stay at home and beat back the tide of Indian warfare.

As early as 1700 we find the House of Burgesses adopting provisions for planting a colony in this region to serve as a barrier against Indian incursions. Special directions are made for the erection of a fort on every two hundred acres of land, to be armed by "able, warlike Christian men, equipped each with a well fixed musquette or fuzee, a good pistoll, tomahawk, sharp simeter, and five pounds of good, clean pistoll powder, and twenty pounds of sizable leaden bulletts or swan or goose shot." This effort proved fruitless. It was probably as late as 1745 that the first settlement in this county was made. This was on the river called by the Indians Wallawhatoola, but changed by the settlers to the less musical name of Cowpasture. Of necessity several families came together, in order to afford mutual protection in case of an attack. Whether they came with a Bible in one hand and a rifle in the other we do not know; but that Dickerson's Fort was soon thereafter built several

miles from Millboro Springs, while a log church was erected near by, we do know; and we also know that in this church (now, in its new site, called Windy Cove Presbyterian church), the people worshipped with gun in hand, while a sentinel paced before the church door. About this time a small fort was erected at Green Valley, ten miles above this point, and still another at what was called Fort Lewis, five miles above Green Valley, the remains of which are still visible.

These settlements were not left undisturbed. Soon after Braddock's defeat, in 1755, a party of Indians made a raid through this section and killed some persons at the Green Valley Fort. The bodies of the victims were buried a short distance west of where the present Green Valley house (now occupied by one of the descendants of Col. Chas. Lewis) stands. The turnpike road leading from Warm Springs to Harrisonburg passes immediately over their graves. The settlers fled to eastern Augusta for better protection. Several years later they returned, thinking themselves secure. Again the Indians made a raid, and a family named Mayse were attacked at their home on the Cowpasture River. The mother and son and a white woman, whose name I have been unable to learn, were carried off. A party of pursuers, headed by that Col. Chas. Lewis who rendered such eminent service in the French and Indian wars, ending in his noble death at Point Pleasant, followed the party in their flight, and overtook them near Marlinton in what is now Pocahontas county. The boy was recaptured but the women were not, but were carried on to the banks of the Scioto River, to pass

through experiences scarcely surpassed by those which befell Mrs. Mary Ingles. Through two hundred miles of unbroken forests, over rocks and streams, these women were forced to walk. After being kept by the Indians for some months, and having gained their confidence, they took advantage of permission to gather berries, and started to make their way home. Avoiding the many dangers, and after a weary trip, in which they passed through Pennsylvania, these two women succeeded in reaching the Cowpasture River. Twenty years later, this same Mrs. Mayse, upon learning that this son was wounded in the battle of Point Pleasant, journeyed alone through the forest to that point and brought him home.

Such dangers as these could not deter such men as Lewis and Dickenson. Having built their forts they pushed westward, spying out the land and laying patent rights to portions of the best land in this section and along the Kanawha River. The records of a suit in Bath county show what tracts of land this Dickenson, afterwards Col. John Dickenson, made claim to in Bath, Greenbrier and Kanawha counties. A recent article in the Southern States Magazine has called attention to the historical interest attaching to the Cowpasture River whose banks for miles and miles were the scenes of heroism, American heroism, "whose annals would well bear comparison with those of the lower James."

Interesting and important as are the personal items which hang about the names of the Cowpasture and Jackson Rivers, the writer must leave them for another time, and present in this article only those personal in-



cidents which have heretofore remained unpublished. For the time would fail me to tell of Chas. Lewis and of John Dickenson and of Chas. Cameron and of Jacob Warrick and of Andrew Lockridge, of Geo. Poage and Joseph Gwynne, and many others, both officers and men, whose boyhood and manhood were but a constant struggle with an enemy who knew no truce, and whose tenderest mercies were blows from their tomahawks; they repelled attacks upon their homes, led in the hot and dangerous pursuits after such foes, to rescue mothers, wives and children; pushed through the gaps of the nearer mountains; forced back the line of savage warfare, in the decisive battle at Point Pleasant; employed their furloughs from the revolutionary service of fighting the British on the sea coast, in defending their homes against the dusky ally of the British in the mountains. Young maidens assisted in the defence of the forts; women were dragged from their homes to see their infants torn into pieces, or dashed to death by a foe who knew no sex; forced to march hundreds of miles to a captivity which lasted for years; their daughters married to Indian Chiefs; their children separated from them forever; their husbands murdered; and if perchance at last they did escape waited for the return of loved ones till death should end their waiting. Are not all these things recorded? The exact date when the fort was built on Jackson's River, five miles west of the Warm Springs, cannot be ascertained but it was visited by General (then Colonel) in the year 1755, who came from Fort Cumberland, through the mountains on a tour of inspection. This fort was called at dif-

ferent times Dinwiddie's Fort, Warrick's Fort, Hog's Fort and Byrd's Fort, and it played a very considerable part in the French and Indian Wars.

The editor of the Dinwiddie letters, published by the Virginia Historical Society, in a note, says that Fort Edward was situated on the Warm Springs Mountain. This is clearly a mistake. This fort is located by several writers as being on Capon river, between Winchester and Romney. That these writers are correct will be seen by examining the correspondence of Governor Dinwiddie and of Col. George Washington in the month of April, 1756. But to return to Fort Dinwiddie: This fort was built in the early part of the administration of Governor Dinwiddie. It is located, and remnants of the old site may be seen on the Erwin Place, on Jackson river, about one mile above where Warm Springs and Huntersville turnpike crosses Jackson's river, and opposite the gap through which said turnpike road passes over Back Creek Mountain. The records show that it was garrisoned during the open months of the year, from 1755 to 1789. Capt. Peter Hog, the great friend of Governor Dinwiddie, was in command here in 1756. Afterwards Capt. Audley Paul was in command. Later Captains John Lewis, Robert McCreary, Thomas Hicklin, Andrew Lockridge, George Poage and others. It was nearly twenty miles west of Fort Dickenson and only six miles from the eastern slope of the Alleghany Mountains. The structure of all these forts seem to have been nearly the same—a stockade, made of logs, placed closely together endwise in the ground. Within the

enclosure thus made there was a blockhouse. In Fort Dinwiddie there was an under-ground passageway, covered with logs, from the block-house to a spring within the stockade, sufficiently high to allow a man to walk within and carry water without being fired upon by the Indians. This underground passageway was only recently filled up. Fort Dinwiddie was one of the chain of forts which Governor Dinwiddie sought to have built as a protection to Virginia frontiers, but which afterwards proved so annoying in his efforts to wage war upon the Indians. Secured by such forts, the settlers preferred staying at home and protecting their families to waging an aggressive warfare. Gov. Dinwiddie's heaviest criticism fell on the shoulders of West Augusta's men for this and other reasons fully set out in his letters to Peter Hog. These forts were garrisoned only during the open months of the year. The account which the writer has recently found spread on the records of Pocahontas county court, show the manner of services rendered by the soldiers placed in these forts. Two men, provisioned for three or four days, were sent out in each direction along the mountains. They were under strict orders not to build a fire in any event, and to return to the fort within three or four days, unless they had reports to make earlier. They had to watch the gaps or low places in the mountain chains, and in some cases had to cover a distance of thirty miles. As soon as these parties returned other parties were sent in their places. In their battles with the Indians they seldom fought from the forts, but leaving in these the women and weaker

men, they fought their enemy in ways which they had learned from them and proved by experience; from behind logs and trees, lying in ambush when necessary. It is said that by lying in ambush Peter Warrick's company captured fifteen of the party of Indians returning from one of the Kerr Creek massacres. To such men, innured from childhood to dangers, and taught by experience and the instinct of self-preservation the best modes of warfare, Governor Dinwiddie's letters of instructions as to the best method of fighting their foes, written in his home at Williamsburg, must have sounded most stupid. He who will take notice of the successful warfare, of the personal daring and the personal interest of such men, will be more disposed to bear patiently with their short-comings, and their independence of the "rules of war" than was that nominal leader of the Virginia forces. Frequent raids were made by the Indians through the section guarded by Fort Dinwiddie. During one of these raids, in 1757, the families who usually sought protection there, were warned of their approaching danger. The Byrds delayed their flight, and the older members of that family were killed in sight of the fort—John Byrd, aged eight years, and his sister were captured. Eight years later John Byrd was recaptured. His sister was married to an Indian chief and was never seen again. When John Byrd was recaptured he wore a gold chain suspended from his nose and both ears. He twice tried to return to the Indians, who had promised to make him a chief, but was prevented. He died in 1836. This John Byrd was a grand-father of Hon. John T. Byrd, recently a

member of the Legislature from this District. At some later date, but prior to 1777, a small fort, called Vance's Fort, was used at Back Creek, at the point now called Mountain Grove. This fort was six miles west of Fort Dinwiddie, and just at the foot of the slopes of the Alleghany Mountains. It was garrisoned for a few months, during that year, but as to whether ever so used again, the records are silent. These are all the frontier forts within what is now the limits of Bath county. As originally laid off in 1790 it included a large part of what is now Alleghany, Pocahontas, and Highland counties. In the first of these, at Covington there was Fort Young, which was built by Peter Hog, in 1756, who was ordered by Col. George Washington to leave Lieut. Bullitt in command of Fort Dinwiddie and build a line of forts to the southward from that point, twenty or thirty miles apart, according to specifications, furnished by Col. Washington. Fort Young was to be another of the line of forts so devoutly sought after by Governor Dinwiddie. In Pocahontas county there was one fort at Clover Lick, another at Green Bank and still another in the Levels. These were all situated in Bath county, in 1790. In Highland county, within the original limits of Bath, there was Wilson's Stockade. In addition to these, there was such fortified houses as Carpenter's, near Covington, and Mose Mann's stockade, on Jackson's River.

## The Pathetic Story of Selim the Algerine

A story of pathetic interest is related by a good many writers in regard to the discovery of an Algerine named Selim. The following is condensed from Waddell's *Annals of Augusta County*:

About the close of the war between France and England in Virginia, known as Braddock's War, Samuel Givens went into the back-woods near the Warm Springs to hunt. As he was hunting in the woods in quest of game, his eyes fell upon an animal on the top of a fallen tree, which he supposed to be some kind of a wild beast. He was about to shoot, but discovered in time that it was a human being. Going up he found a man in a pitiable condition—a person entirely naked except a few rags tied around his feet, emaciated, evidently famishing and almost covered with scabs. He could not speak English and Givens knew no other language. He, however, supplied the forlorn creature with food, and when he acquired sufficient strength, after several days, he put him on one of his horses and took him to Captain Dickinson, near Windy Cove. There he was entertained for some months, during which time the stranger acquired sufficient knowledge to communicate with the hospitable people into whose hands he had fallen. He stated that his name was Selim, a native of Algiers, in Africa, and the son of a wealthy man; and that he was educated in Constantinople, and while returning to Algiers the ship he was aboard was captured by a Spanish man-of-war. Spain

was then in alliance with France, and the Spanish ship, falling in with the French vessel, Selim was transferred to the latter and taken to New Orleans. After some time he was sent up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to the Shawnee towns, and left a prisoner with the Indians. A white woman captured on the frontiers of Virginia was held as a prisoner by the Indians at the same time, and from her Selim learned by signs that she came from the east. He was sufficiently acquainted with geography to know that the English had settlements on the eastern shore of the continent and inferred that the woman came from one of them. He thereupon resolved to escape, and by constantly keeping to the rising sun, finally reached the border settlement of Augusta County in the plight mentioned.

On a Court day Captain Dickinson took Selim to Staunton, where he attracted much attention. Among the throng of people was the Rev. John Craig, who immediately riveted the attention of the Algerine. The latter afterwards explained that in a dream a person like Mr. Craig had appeared to him as a teacher or a guide, able to impart valuable instructions. He expressed a desire to accompany Mr. Craig home, and was kindly taken there. The minister sought to impart to the Mohammedan stranger the truths of the Christian religion, and his efforts were aided by Selim's knowledge of the Greek language, being thus able to read the Greek testament in the original tongue. He soon professed conversion, and Mr. Craig being satisfied of his intelligence and sincerity, publicly baptized him in the Old Stone church.

He was afterwards seized with a desire to return to his native land, and his new friends could not dissuade him from it. Mr. Craig, therefore, raised a sum of money for him, and giving him a letter to Hon. Robert Carter, of Westmoreland county, then living in Williamsburg, sent him on his way. Mr. Carter did all that was asked of him, furnished more money to Selim and secured for him passage to England.

Sometime after this Selim returned to Virginia, in a state of insanity. In lucid intervals he stated that he had found his way home, but had been rejected and driven off by his father when he learned that he had abjured Mohammedanism. He came to Capt. Dickenson's, and from thence went to the Warm Springs, where he met a young clergyman named Templeton, who put a Greek testament in his hands, which he read with great delight. From the Warm Springs he went to Mr. Carter's residence in Westmoreland. He awakened the sympathy of all who knew him. Gov. Page, while a member of Congress in Philadelphia, took him to that city, and had his likeness taken by the artist Peale. From Philadelphia he went home with a South Carolina gentleman. He also was at one time living in Prince Edward County (Virginia). For a time he was confined in the lunatic asylum at Williamsburg, but he finally died in a private house, where and at what time are not mentioned.













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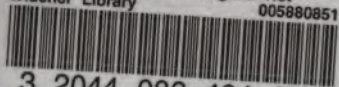
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